

Devil's Swamp Lake Community Meeting December 16, 2010

EPA covered the basic Superfund Process and talked about the upcoming sampling plan. Once the results from the sampling are in we will be back in the community for another meeting to share the findings and discuss the next phase. (RI/FS) If we find the contamination outside the parameters we will expand our area of concern and continue sampling until we are sure we have the area covered. A Proposed Plan will be developed and we will share that with the Community. At that point there is a 30 day comment period before the Remedy to the problem is decided upon.

The meeting was then opened to questions.

1. Why didn't they do this a long time ago? How many years have passed and only now test and analysis? There are 235 homes in this area, quit spending money on testing and just move us out, we want out. The dump is a huge problem, quit expanding the dump.

There has been an ongoing investigation and the first place that is investigated is finding a responsible party to clean –up what they are responsible for. In this site we where negotiating with over 40 potential responsible parties. (Enforcement First)

Cleaning up a site is the top priority as far as it's endangerment to human health and the environment. Moving Communities is generally the last result, when a community can't be protected from the threat. In this case the contamination is centered in the area of concern which is west of Scenic Hwy 61. There is a Fish Advisory for Devil's Swamp Lake and the surrounding area.

The water in the Community has been tested by Louisiana Department of Health and Hospital and the EPA and does not pose a threat to human health.

The Dump is not part of our jurisdiction and that is something you will have to discuss with The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

2. I've been here since the 50's, we want out of here. Springfield Road 8 people died of cancer. We are dying. We want out of here; no more analysis and testing take the money and move us out of here. We want to move like the people in Oklahoma.

The investigation has to determine if the exposure is affecting the Alsen Community.

3. We have to be patience and let them investigate and go through their process or we won't get anywhere. / We have waited long enough, when it rains water washes right through my property. This was discovered in the 80's why no solution till now, why not a bigger area of investigation?

The sampling area we determined through previous testing and the area to the North was part of the area cleaned up during the Petro Processors Superfund Site Clean-up. If you will show us where your property is located we can look into expanding in that direction.

4. Money has been allocated to this Community and we didn't get anything. Where is the money for us? People own property that don't live here and they got the money.

Money did not come from the Superfund.

5. The dump, who's responsible for the dump? Our Mayor Kip Holden said we need to stand-up and fight these dumps. All this takes time and people are dying. The dump needs to be investigated and sampled.

Give me your address and I will give you the contact names and numbers to answer you questions concerning the dump.

6. Are you testing up around Petro Processors? In the summer time when it dries out there is a white crust on the land. I own 100 acres and if your only testing for PCB's you're missing a lot of stuff that's worse the PCB's. Water runs through my property to the river.

We will be testing for many chemical which includes all Volatiles.

7. After the analysis and all the testing how do we benefit as a Community?

We can answer that until we finish the investigation.

8. Black soot falls on our community and nothing has ever been done about this.

We will have to look into that

9. The people in this community need to get organized and hire someone to look into getting your properties up for sale.

10. We complain to DEQ and they never respond to us about the Dump.

11. We live on the East side of Scenic Hwy. 61; we need testing done in the Alsen Community.

12. The State legislators that represented the people, got a community in Oklahoma moved, but not here. All our children are affected, damage is already done. If they make so much money they can move us.

13. How deep do they go when they do testing? Crawfish testing? They sell crawfish all over the area and we don't know where they come from.

A gentleman in the audience said he sells seafood and livestock in the area and none of it comes from Devil's Swamp.

The testing will involve sediment in the lake, some fish and most samples of soil. We generally go to a depth of 6 to 12 inches. The results of these samples will tell us whether we need to go deeper or into other areas.

14. This has been a long process, over 30 years, and its time for some big changes. It's not about color it's about humanity. You need to be held accountable. We can hardly breathe, and we need help. You need to do a study in Alsen, you need to sample here not in the swamp. Alsen is a poor Community and you say hold-on, well we will be dead and gone before anything gets done. We need help now!

We have to complete the investigation where we know there are problems and then branch out depending on what we find from the sampling. We will be back in the Community in mid summer with the results and future plans. We can't tell you what's going to happen and we are not telling you that we will move anyone. We have to analyze the results of the investigation and that will lead us to the next step. We will get back with the individual that I promised to supply contact information for him to get answers on the questions about the landfills. Please don't hesitate to call us with any questions. We have direct numbers and a toll free number listed on the back of the fact sheet.